

M-17 PEL Study

Local Advisory Group
Meeting 1
11/4/22



Agenda

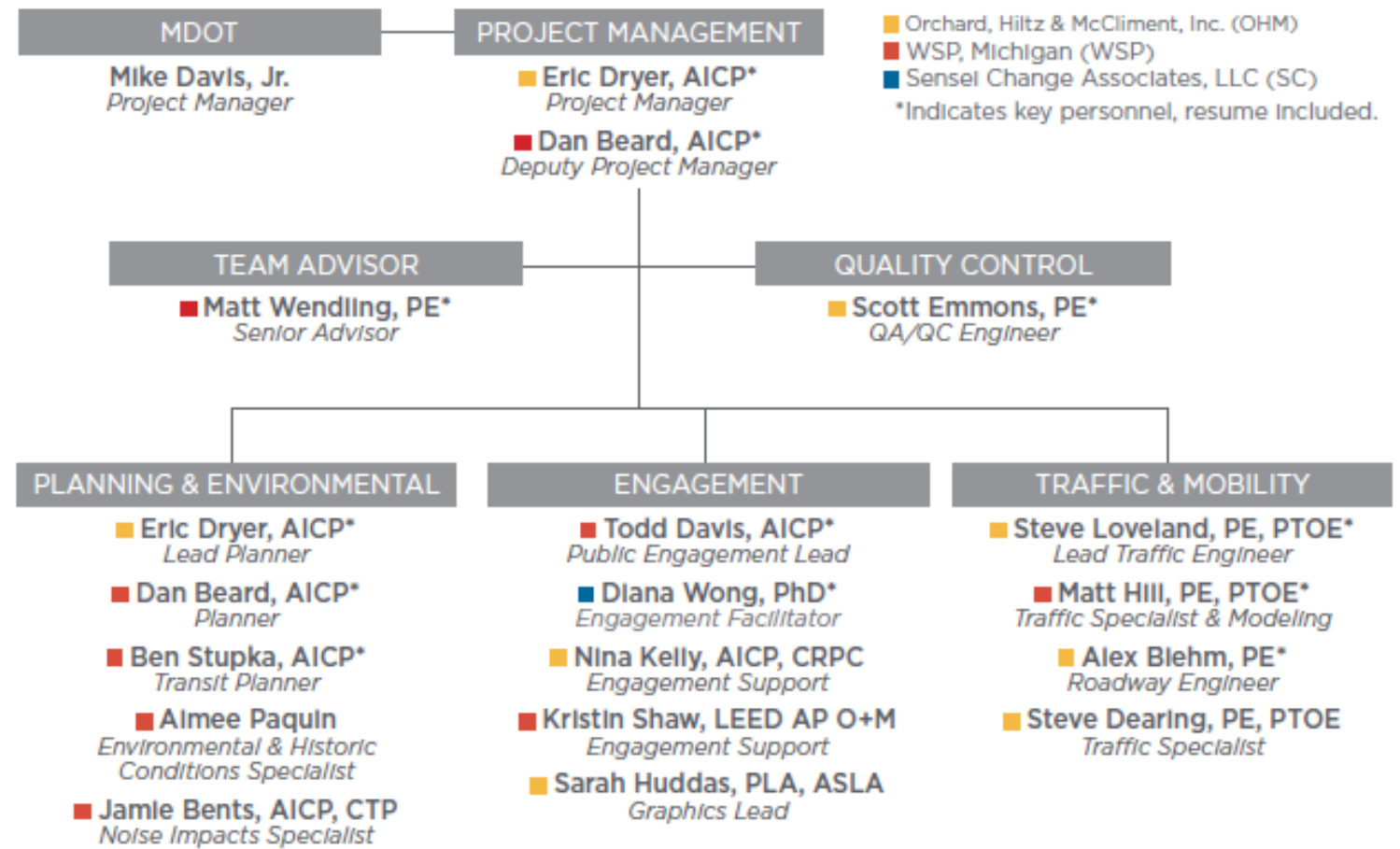
- Welcome and Introductions
- Project Team
- What is the LAG
- PEL Process
- Project Background
- Corridor Overview
- Discussion



Project Team

Project Team

- Consultant Team:
 - OHM Advisors,
 - WSP
 - Sensei Change
- Project Management
- Collaborative Effort through all aspects





Local Advisory Group

What is the LAG?

- Local Advisory Group
- Comprised of local leaders, stakeholders, and agency reps
- Responsible for providing input on the following:
 - Engagement activities
 - Purpose and Need Statement
 - Evaluation Criteria
 - Project Alternatives
- Meet regularly through the project at key milestones

LAG Roles and Responsibilities

- Provide **unique knowledge** and **perspective** on the corridor
- Facilitate **communications** with the project team
- Provide **feedback** on **engagement** strategies
- Provide **input on the project process** and opportunities
- **Review** and **evaluate** draft documents
- Actively participate in the process to **identify mutually agreeable recommendations**

LAG Meeting Schedule

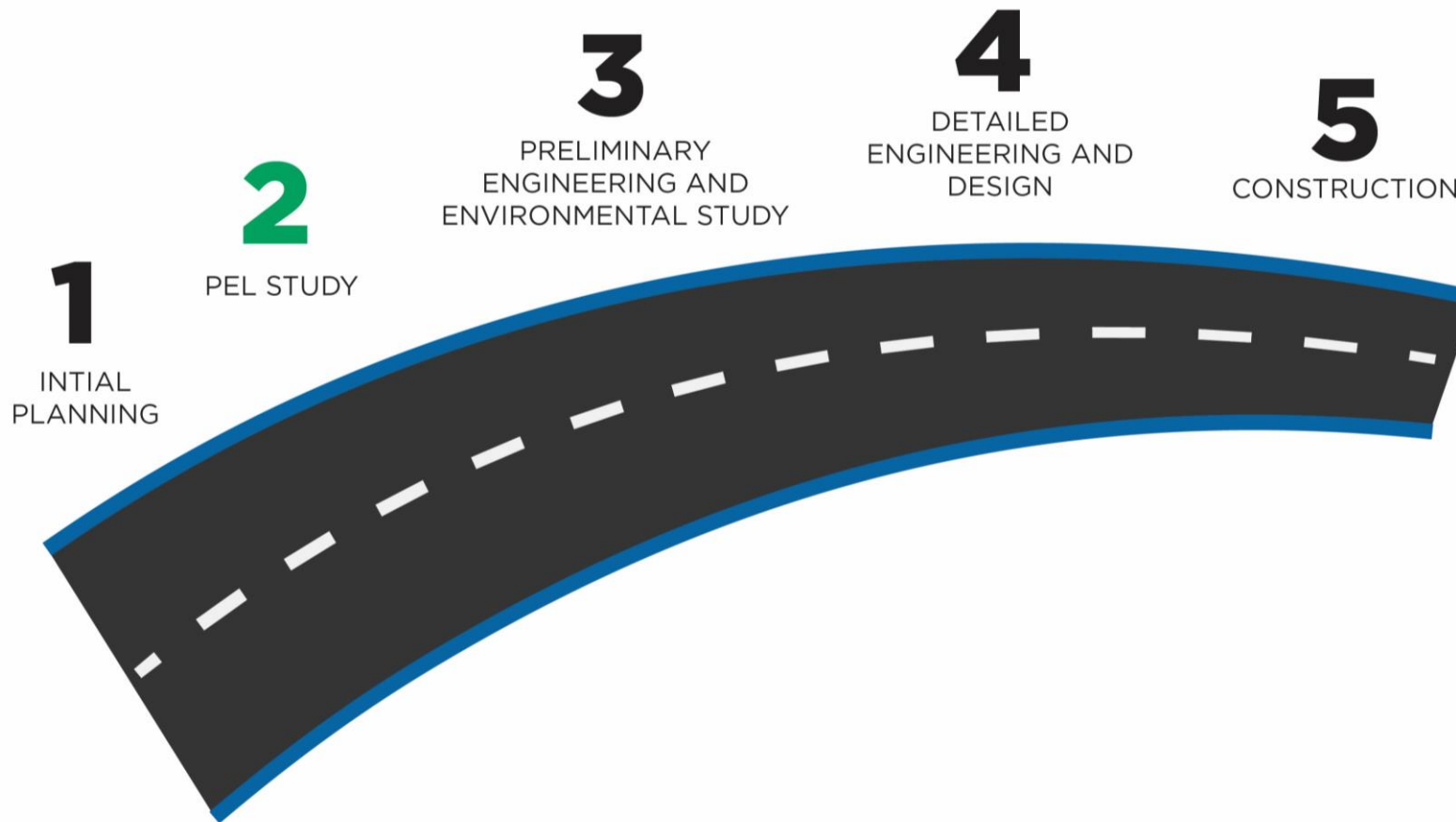
- Coincide with major project milestones
- Plan on some in-person and some virtual meetings
- Tentative Meeting Schedule:
 - November 2022
 - January 2023
 - March 2023
 - June 2023
 - August 2023
 - October 2023
- Specific dates will be scheduled as we get closer to the meeting dates



Project Process

PROJECT DELIVERY PROCESS

MOVING FROM CONCEPT TO CONSTRUCTION



- PEL is an early step in realizing conceptual plans
- Sets MDOT and local communities up for a more efficient Step 3 and Step 4
- PEL analyzes regulatory aspects not reviewed in initial planning

Why PEL?

- More efficient process
- Combines planning, engineering, and NEPA work
- Uses analysis phase to inform NEPA
- Incorporates early public engagement

WHY USE THE PLANNING & ENVIRONMENTAL LINKAGES PROCESS?



Faster Project Delivery



Robust Public & Stakeholder Involvement



Elimination of Duplicate Work



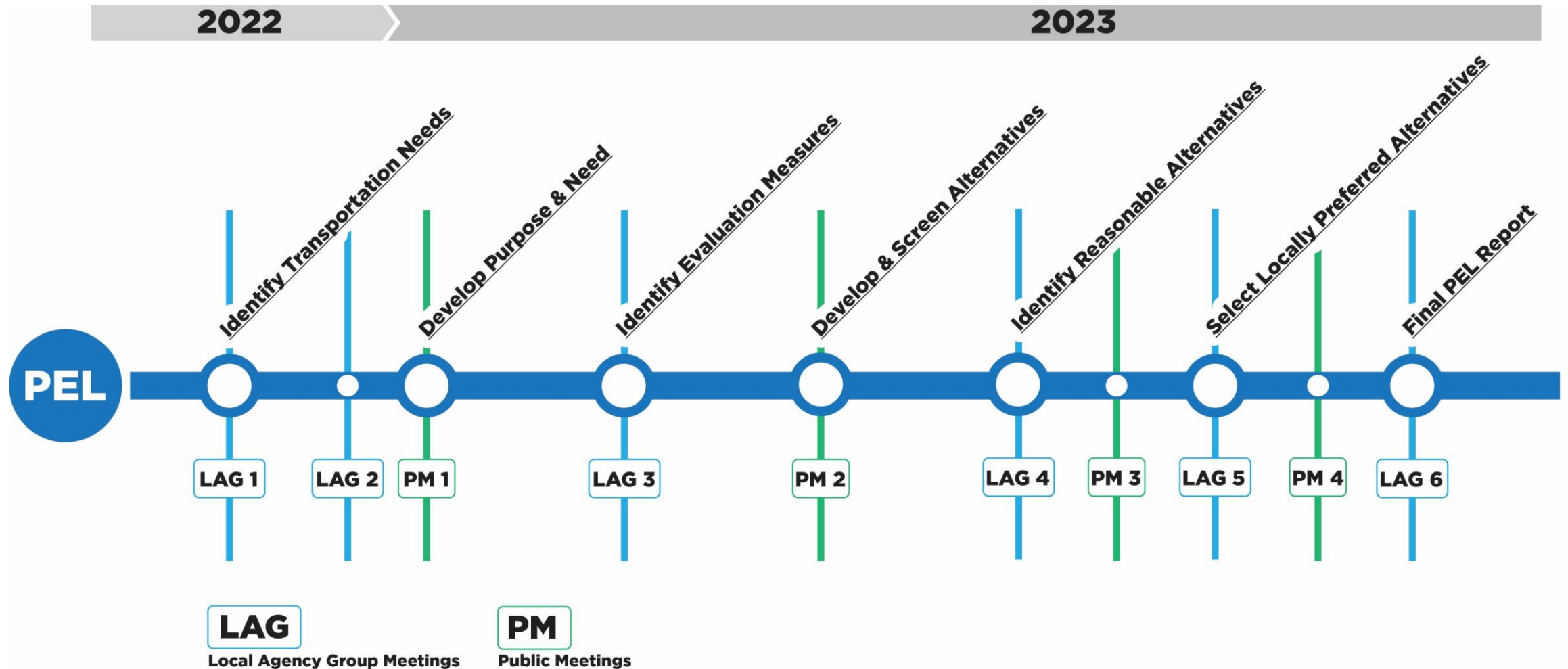
Better Communication

Planning and Environmental Linkages (PEL) is a collaborative approach to transportation planning that includes study of environmental, community, and economic impacts early in the project development process.

Why PEL For Washtenaw Ave?

- Next step in the process from 2014 Reimagine Washtenaw
- Understand potential natural resource and environmental justice impacts
- Determine what MDOT can feasibly implement
- Ensure compliance with NEPA requirements before detailed design and engineering
- Build from previous planning while taking an objective view of alternatives

Project Timeline



Community Engagement

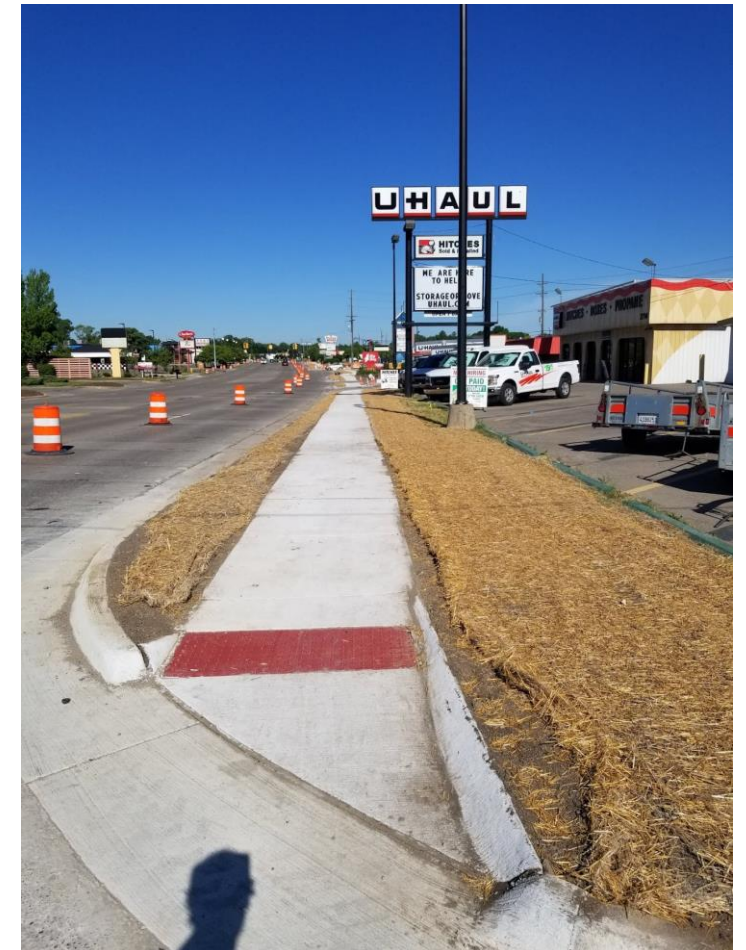
- Engagement will happen throughout the project in a few different ways:
 - Local Advisory Group
 - Stakeholder and Small Group Interviews
 - Digital Outreach
 - Project Website
 - Public Meetings
- What stakeholders should we engage with?



Project Background

Washtenaw Avenue Corridor

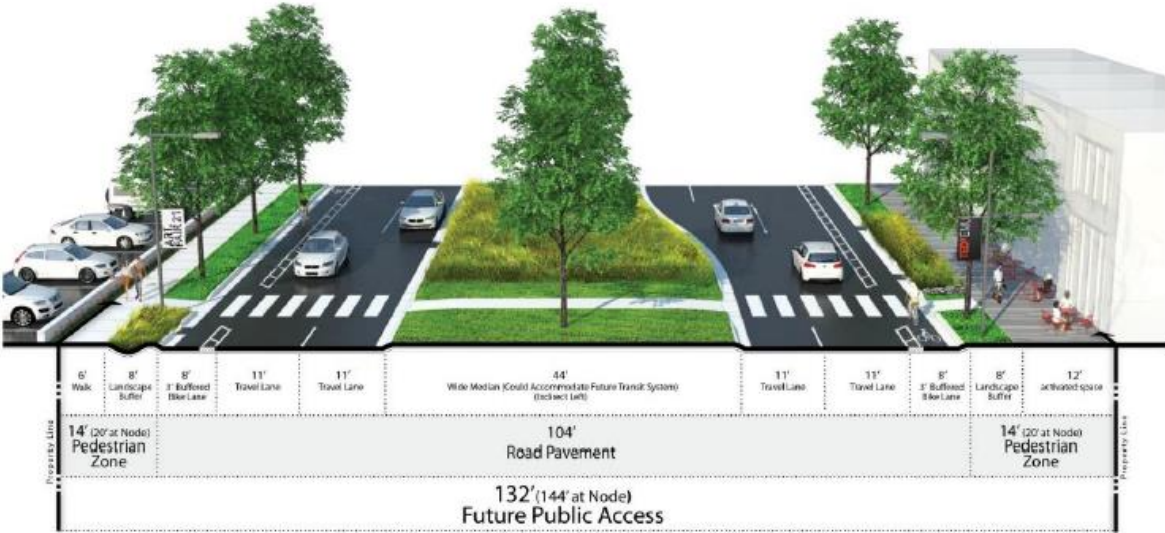
- Major connecting route between Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor
- Five traffic lanes
- High transit ridership corridor
- Need for connected non-motorized facilities
- Previous Planning has set the stage for the PEL
 - Reimagine Washtenaw
 - RTA Michigan Ave Corridor Study
 - Local plans
 - TheRide Long Range Plan



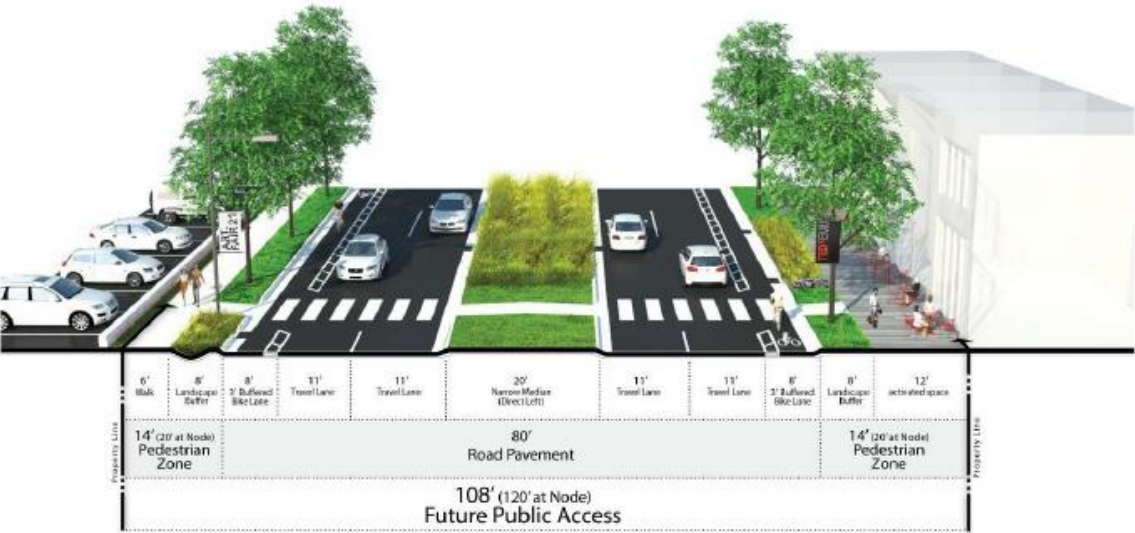
Reimagine Washtenaw

- Completed in 2014
- Detailed analysis of Washtenaw Ave, including ROW, land use, traffic analysis, and non-motorized use
- Goals of:
 - Identifying existing MDOT ROW
 - Expand multi-modal transportation choices
 - Improve pedestrian crossing conditions
 - Improve transit operations and user experience
 - Improve streetscape environment

Stadium to US-23

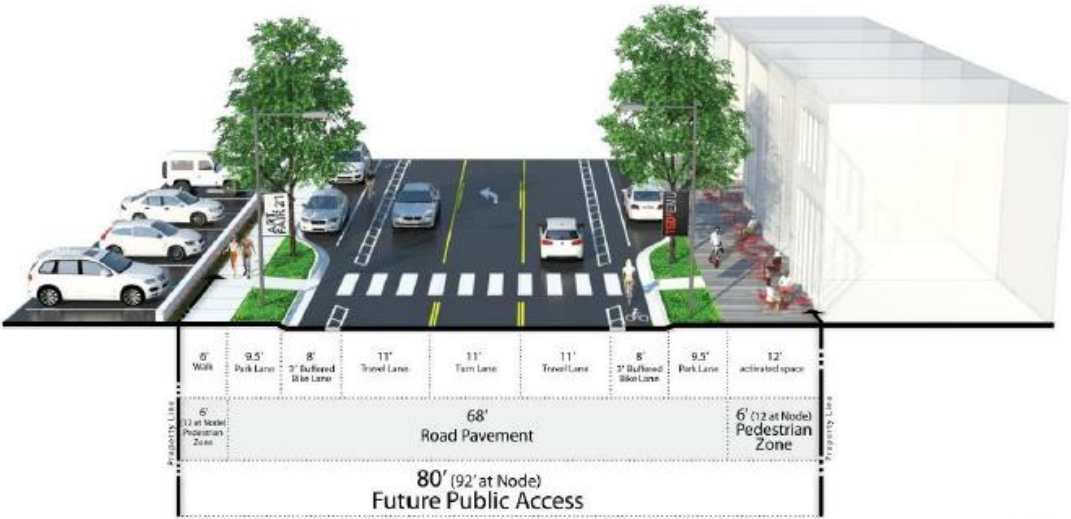


Carpenter to Courtland



Reimagine Washtenaw

Courtland to Downtown Ypsilanti



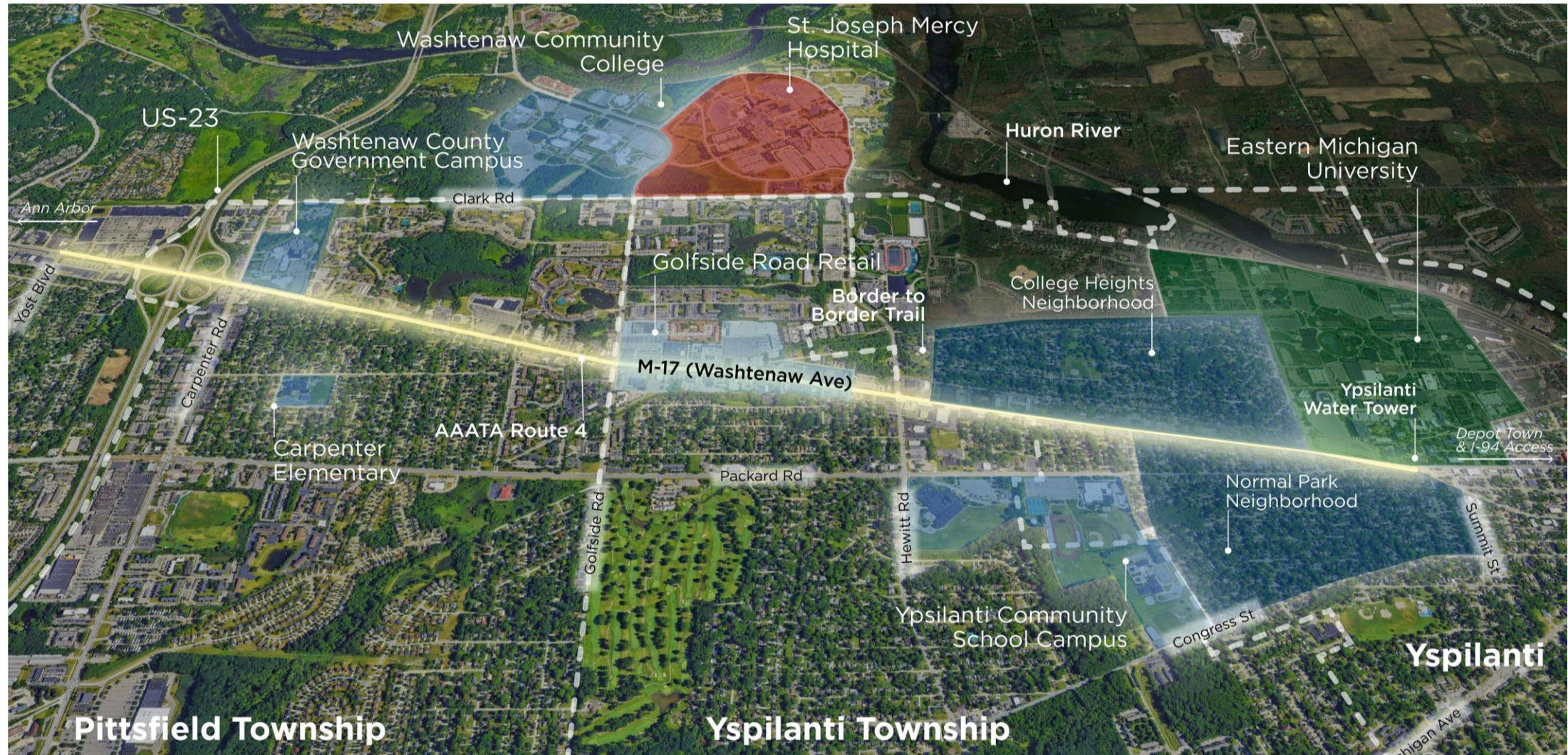


Corridor Overview

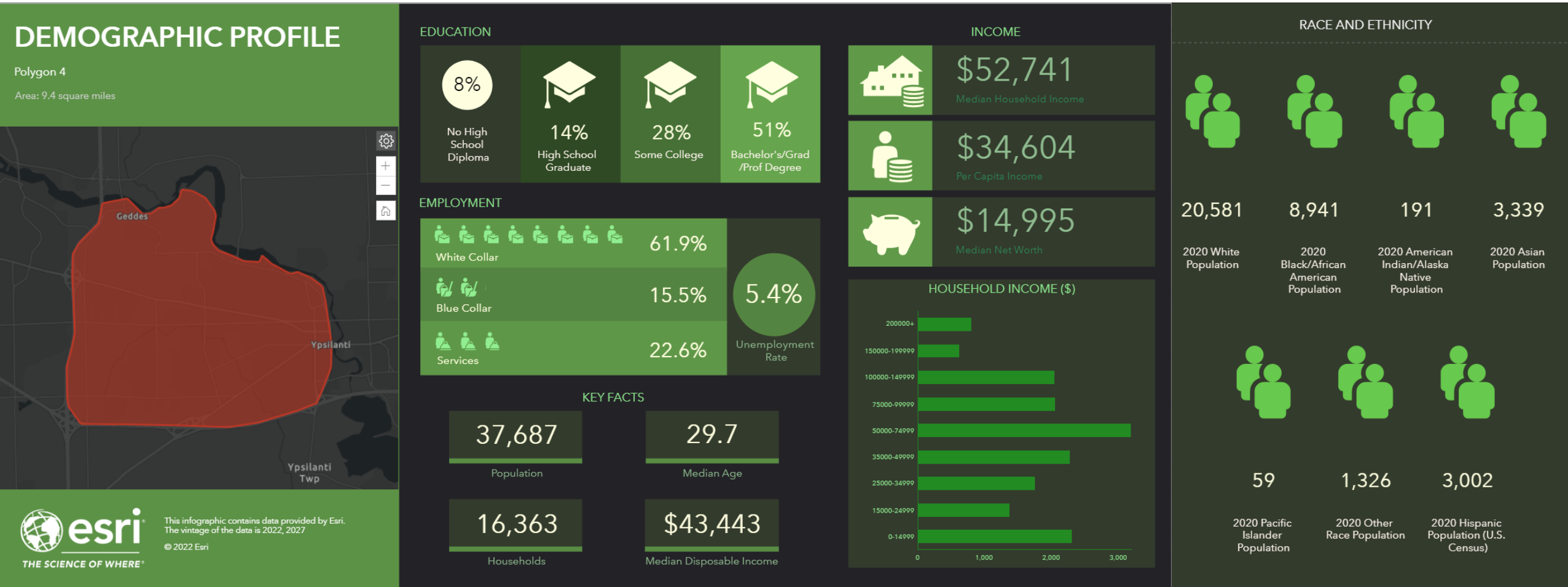
Project Study Area

- Washtenaw Avenue from US-23 to Summit St
- 3.2 Miles Long
- Communities:
 - Pittsfield Twp
 - Ypsilanti Township
 - City of Ypsilanti
- Eastern Michigan University
- Historic Neighborhoods
- Wide diversity of residents

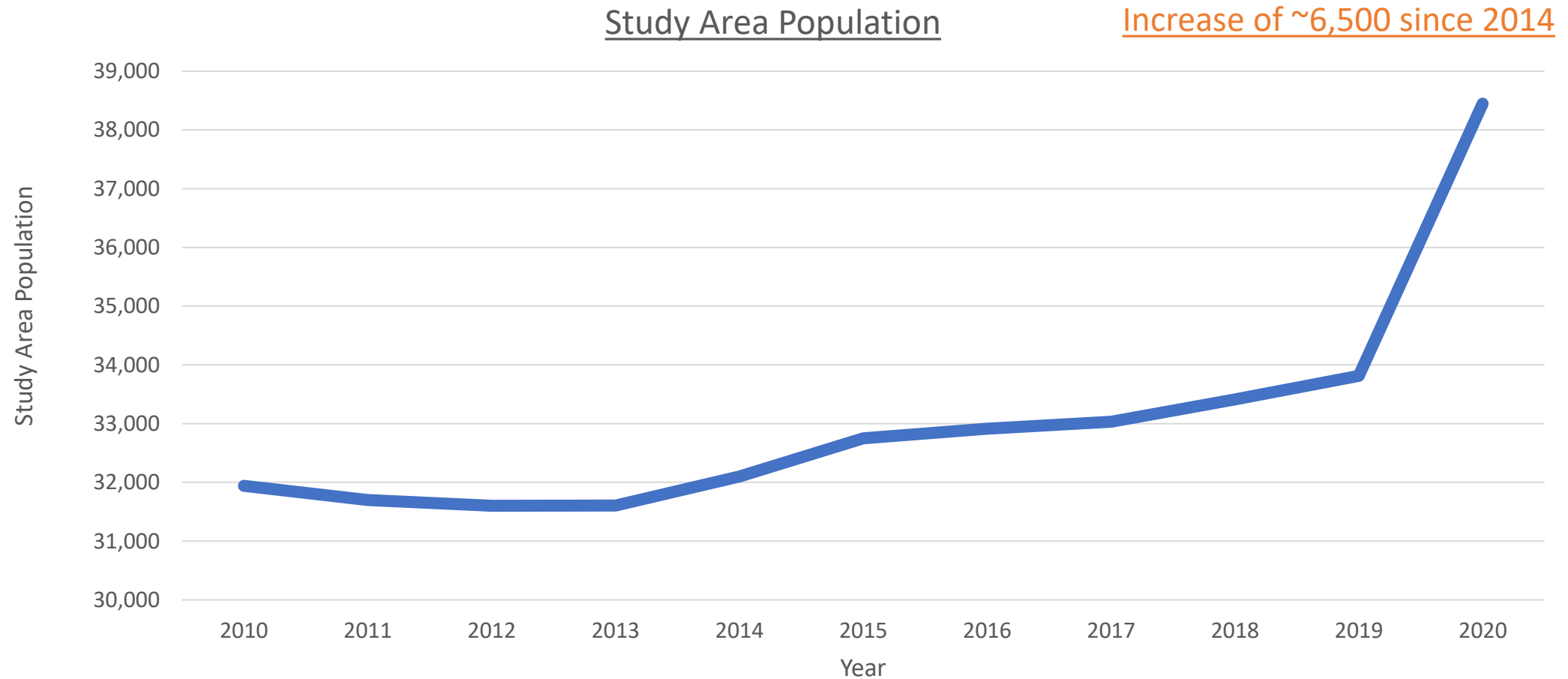
PEL Study Area



Study Area At A Glance



Historic Population Change



Next Steps

- Finalization of the Public Input Plan
- Existing Conditions Data Collection and Analysis
 - Data Collection and Previous Plan Review
 - Safety Analysis
 - Traffic Data Collection and Analysis
 - Environmental Analysis
- Development of Purpose & Need

Next LAG Meeting: Early January 2023

Discussion and Questions